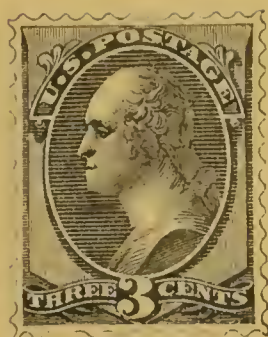


MASON'S  
MONTHLY  
COIN AND STAMP  
COLLECTORS'



MAGAZINE.

Vol. 4.

JULY, 1870.

No. 7.

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# MASON'S

## COIN AND STAMP COLLECTORS'

### MAGAZINE.

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#### ENGLISH SILVER COINS, FROM THE NORMAN CONQUEST.

ARRANGED BY E. M., JR.

[Selected from Ackerman's Numismatic Manual, now out of print.]

(Continued.)

EDWARD III, 1326.

Obverse.—The groat and half groat of this king have the head within a space formed by nine arches, having their angles fleury, that is, as a sort of fleur-de-lis where the ends conjoin, pointing inwards. The head resembles that of his father and grandfather; indeed, the English money, from the time of Edward I to the reign of Henry VII cannot be distinguished by the *portraits*, if they may be so called. It is quite evident that the effigies of the English monarchs on their coins are not *likenesses* until the time of Henry VIII, whatever the ingenious may say to the contrary. Some have supposed that the rude figures on the Saxon coins are likenesses, but the idea is ridiculous. Folkes, in his "Table of English Silver Coins," remarks that the kings of England are represented *bearded* on their great seals, but always *smoothfaced* on their coins. The legends on the farthings and half pence are generally EDWARDVS REX. Some have the addition of A and ANG. The penny has EDWARDVS REX ANGLIE or ANGLI. Some have also DI. GRA. and the title DNS. HYB. The half groat, mostly, EDWARDVS, REX ANGLI DNS. HVC, Z FRANCI. The groat has EDWARD. DEI. G. REX. ANGL. DNS. HXBZ. Z. AQT. or Z. FRANCIE. Leake says, that the groat and half groat, with the titles Lord of Ireland and Duke of Aquitaine were struck before the year 1360, or subsequently to 1369, and that such as have FRANCIE were coined between those periods.

Reverse.—Very similar to those of the first and second Edwards, except the legend POSVI DEVM ADIVTOREM MEVM, in the outer circle of the groat and half groat, which was continued until the reign of James I.

Rarity.—The groat and half groat of Calais (VILLA CALEISE, in the inner circle) are very rare. All the rest are common, except the half pence and farthings, which are rather scarce.

(To be continued.)



## THE STUDY OF COINS AND MEDALS AS CONNECTED WITH POETRY, PAINTING AND ARCHITECTURE.

It may justly be observed that the knowledge of Greek medals is most necessary for a sculptor and perhaps an architect; while that of the Roman is the more interesting to a poet and a painter. This is owing to the former containing chiefly the head of some king, some god or goddess of exquisite relief and workmanship on the obverse; while the reverse seldom in the early Greek coins affords much fancy of symbol, and in the Imperial Greek coins is chiefly impressed with temples of their deities.

To a man of poetical imagination, the Roman coins are most entertaining, from the fine personifications and symbols to be found on their reverses.—To instance in a few:

Hope is represented as a sprightly girl, walking quickly and walking straight forward. With her left hand she holds up her garments, that they may not impede the rapidity of her pace; while in her right hand she holds forth the bud of a flower, an emblem infinitely more fine than the trite one of an anchor. This personification, with some others, must have been very familiar to the ancients, for often in this and a few more instances, no name, as *SPES AVG.*, or the like, is inserted in the legend.

Abundance is imaged as a sedate matron, with a cornucopia in her hands, of which she scatters the fruits over the ground, and does not hold up her cornucopia and keep its contents to herself, as many modern poets and painters make her do.

The emperor Titus, having cause to import a great supply of corn during a scarcity at Rome, that supply, or the *ANNOŃA*, is finely represented as a sedate lady, with a filled cornucopia in her left hand, which she holds upright to indicate that she does not, however, mean to scatter it, as Abundance hath a title to do, but to give it to Equity to deal out. This last particular is shown by her holding a little image of Equity, known by her scales, and *basta pura* or pointless spear in her right hand, over a basket filled with wheat. Behind the *ANNOŃA* is the prow of a ship, decked with flowers, to imply that the corn was brought by sea (from Africa), and that the ships had a prosperous voyage. The best poet in the world could not have given us a finer train of imagery; the best painter would be puzzled to express so much matter in so small a compass.

Security stands leaning on a pillar, indicative of her being free from all designs and pursuits; and *teras atque rotundus*, round and polished, as Horace phrases it, against all the rubs of chance.

The emblems of Piety, Modesty and the like are equally apposite and poetical.

The happiness of the state is pictured by a ship sailing before a prosperous breeze; an image than which the superlative genius of Gray could find none more exquisite; and he has accordingly used it in his most capital production, *The Bard*, with due success.

(*To be continued.*)



LIFE SCENES IN THE EXPERIENCE OF A COIN DEALER.

BY E. M., JR.

No. 3.

"*The Knowing Ones.*"

The next visitor from the class denominated "Knowing Ones," was in the person of a neat, staid, plainly dressed gent of about middle age, arrayed in a white choker, who entered our little curiosity shop in silence, and gazed with evident interest upon a collection of silver Roman coins displayed in a show case upon the counter. There was about half a dozen visitors present, and we were busily engaged in mailing catalogues of a coin sale, occasionally entering into conversation concerning the ups and downs of the coin trade. Our quiet visitor, after a cursory glance of our little stock in trade, opened his batteries by the inquiry:

"Have you, among your Roman pieces, a coin of Alexander the Great?"

*Dealer.*—(Concealing a smile.)—"No, sir."

*Knowing One.*—"Humph! Have you a Roman Tiberius?"

*Dealer.*—(Suppressing another smile.)—"No, sir."

*Coin Collector.*—(Who prides himself on a knowledge of ancient coins.)—"Perhaps the gentleman has forgotten that the coins of the Cæsars are Greek.

*Knowing One.*—(Turning round and facing the company.)—"Humph! Do you understand Greek, sir?"

*Coin Collector.*—"I understand the difference between Greek and Roman coins."

*Knowing One.*—"Humph! Do you understand Greek?"

*Coin Collector.*—"Sufficiently well to distinguish between a Greek and a Roman coin."

*Knowing One.*—"Humph!" (Turns again toward the dealer.) "Will you please show me a specimen of Roman coinage."

*Dealer.*—(Maliciously presenting a bogus shekel.)—"Perhaps, this is what you allude to."

*Knowing One.*—"Humph! Will you oblige me by reading the inscription on the piece?"

*Dealer.*—(Somewhat nonplussed.)—"I do not profess to understand Greek or Roman. Will you, sir, oblige us by a translation."

*Knowing One.*—"Humph! I have not my glasses by me and am near sighted. However, our classical friend, here (turning and presenting the piece to the coin collector), will no doubt inform us whether or not the coin is Greek or Roman."

*Coin Collector.*—"The characters do not seem to be either Greek or Roman, but from the designs I should suppose the piece of a religious character."

*Knowing One.*—(Now fully convinced that the entire party is in ignorance of the history of the so called shekel, volunteers a description.)—"This coin, gentlemen, was struck in Macedonia, a Roman city of some note, about A. D. 250. The adherents of Hadrian, after

the capture of Constantinople, joined the forces of Trajan, and gained a great victory in a combined effort against Alexander the Great. In consequence of the valor displayed by a daughter of Nero, the distinguished warrior and musician, a silver medal was struck and a sacrifice offered to commemorate the event; and Hadrian—that is Trajan—or, I should say, Alexander—or Nero presented this coin to his daughter as a keepsake. The successful emperor was overthrown subsequently, the dies of the coin captured, and all the silver plate melted up into these Roman pieces and distributed among the”—

*Dealer.*—(Interrupting).—“Excuse me, sir: I handed you a Jewish shekel. The resemblance to a Roman coin being so great, you were lead into a small historical error, and have so confused us with your Roman and Grecian history, that I fear”—

The remainder of the remarks were cut short by a clean cut black coat tail suddenly disappearing out of the door, and our clerical (?) “Knowing One” has ever since avoided the stores of coin dealers.

(*To be continued.*)

#### THE MINT AT PHILADELPHIA.

(*Continued.*)

The exceedingly delicate scales were made under the direction of Mr. Peale, who greatly improved the old ones in use. So delicate are they, that the slightest breath of air affects their accuracy, rendering it necessary for them to exclude it from the room, which, being poorly ventilated, on a hot day is an uncomfortable and probably an unhealthy place. The chief coiner exercised great care to counteract this difficulty by occasionally stopping work and opening the windows. The whole process, however, is behind the times. Hand work cannot compete with machinery. Sixty adjusters cannot keep the coining press supplied, and genius must find a quicker way of performing the work. It is here that the delay occurs, keeping depositors waiting from twenty to thirty days for the coin they should receive in a week. It is astonishing that our mint has not made the advancement here that it has in every other department.

Only the gold pieces are adjusted in this manner. The silver has merely the adjustment of the two planchets weighed at the cutting press. A greater allowance is made in the weight of a silver coin, as it is less valuable, and it would be almost impossible to have such a vast number of small pieces separately examined. Mr. Peale ordered from Paris a beautiful and delicate coin separator, which he intended to apply to silver (although the one received is adapted to the half eagle only), but owing to its not arriving until he had been removed it has never been put in operation. It is so arranged that the planchets, being placed in at one end, are carried through the hopper and dropped singly on a balance. If too light, it is tipped into a box at one side; if too heavy, into another box; if exactly right, into a third box. The instrument does not adjust the weight. But merely separates the heavy and light planchets. For silver, however, this



would be desirable, as a more uniform weight could be preserved. Why it has never been put in use, we are unable to learn.

The females in the adjusting room are paid \$1 10 a day for ten hours' work. They look happy and contented. Behind the screens, at each end of the room, are dining halls, where they eat the dinners they bring with them. On the whole, it is the pleasantest workshop for woman we have yet seen, and the pay, in comparison with that ordinarily given to women, is good.

(*To be continued.*)

## HISTORY OF THE COINS, TOKENS, MEDALS, ETC., OF THE DOMINION OF CANADA.

BY ALFRED SANDHAM,

*Life Member of the Numismatic and Antiquarian Society of Montreal.*

In 1840, the first Prince Edward Island token made its appearance, specimens of which are extremely rare. There are but four or five tokens from this island, the one named and the 1855 and 1857 coins.

In 1843, New Brunswick launched her Frigate coins, which are very fine, and, when in uncirculated condition, vie with any of the other provincial issues.

In 1856, Nova Scotia parted with the insignia of the land from whence she took her name, and in place of the Thistle donned the May Flower. These coins, however, were doomed to a short existence.

As early as the year 1822, a movement was made toward the introduction of a regular colonial decimal coinage, but no definite action was taken until the year 1858, when the Canadian coinage, consisting of 50, 10 and 5 cent silver and 1 cent copper coins made their appearance. These coins were issued through the banks in the provinces, but the supply was not equal to the demand; consequently the old coppers and tokens, and the American and English silver still continue to form the greater bulk of the medium of exchange. Several ineffectual efforts have been made to lessen the quantity of foreign silver in the Dominion, but with no other coinage to replace it, the supply has soon reached its former amount. It is earnestly to be desired that some steps should be taken whereby we may have a Dominion currency, and we have no doubt but that a few years, at most, will find the Wellingtons, sous, half pennies and similar tokens replaced by a coinage of which the New Dominion shall have no reason to feel ashamed. To return to our subject, Canada was not long permitted to stand alone in her experiment; for in the year 1861, New Brunswick introduced her really fine coinage of the same denominations as Canada, but adding to the list the half cent. As if moved by the same spirit, Nova Scotia makes her appearance almost simultaneous with her sister province, and issues the cent and half cent, but does not issue any silver coins. This supply was supplemented by the issues of 1862 and 1864. Determined not to be out-

stripped by these colonies, old "*Prima Vista*" (Newfoundland), in 1865, appears in the field, and without condescending to notice such *small* coin as half cents, strikes in nobler metal and issues a \$2 gold coin. To this was added a 20, 10 and 5 cent silver and 1 cent copper, all of very neat design.

(*To be continued.*)

#### COUNTERFEIT ANCIENT COINS AND MEDALS, AND THE ART OF DISTINGUISHING THEM FROM THE TRUE.

The gain upon forging imitations of ancient coins being so immense, it is no wonder that this species of imposition has been much cultivated. Restricted by the laws of no country, and far from being considered as a crime, but, on the contrary, regarded as an exertion of masterly skill in their profession by the most eminent modern artists, this kind of forgery, which arose at the beginning of the sixteenth century, has spread and continues to spread to an amazing degree.

It is unnecessary here to mention several medals, of which the forgery is so apparent that he must be a novice, indeed, upon whom they impose. Such are those of Priam, ΒΑΣΙΛΕΩΣ ΠΡΙΑΜΟΥ, with a view of Troy, ΤΡΟΙΑ, upon the reverse; those of Æneas, Cicero; and Cæsar, VENI, VIDI, VICI; with several others of the same stamp. Of this kind is the emperor Heraclius likewise, with Greek and Latin sentences, representing that prince stroking his beard; with a chariot on the reverse. This last piece imposed upon Scaglier and Lipsius, but would not now impose upon any one, so much has this science improved.

It is from other artists and other productions, that any danger of deceit arises. And there is no wonder that even the skillful are misled by such artists as have used this trade; for among them appear the names of Victor Gambello, Giovanni del Cavino, called the PADUAN, and his son; Alessandro Bassiano, likewise of Padua; Benvenuto Cellini, Alessandro Greco, Leo Aretino, Jacobo da Trezzo, Federego Bonzagna and Giovanni Jacopo, his brother; Sebastiano Plumbo, Valerio de Vicenza, Gorlæus, a German, Carteron, of Holland, and others; all, or most of them of the sixteenth century; and Cavino, the PADUAN, who is the most famous, of the beginning of it, if I am not mistaken. The forgeries of Cavino are held in no little esteem, being of wonderful execution. His and those of Carteron are the most numerous; many of the other artists here mentioned not having forged above two or three coins. Later forgers were Dervieu, of Florence, who confined himself to medallions; and Cogornier, who gave coins of the thirty tyrants in small brass.

The chief part of the forgeries of Greek medals, which have come to my knowledge, are of the first mentioned and very gross kind, representing persons who could never appear upon coin, such as Priam, Æneas, Plato, Alcibiades, Artemisia and others. The real Greek coins were very little known or valued till the works of Goltzius



appeared, which were happily posterior to the era of the grand forgers. Why later forgers have seldom thought of counterfeiting them cannot easily be accounted for, if it is not owing to the masterly workmanship of the originals, which sets all imitation at defiance. Forgeries, however, of most ancient coins may be met with, and of the Greek among the rest.

(*To be continued.*)

## NUMISMATIC NOMENCLATURE; OR, THE COIN COLLECTORS' LEXICON.

BY E. MASON, JR.

(*Continued.*)

*Marred.*—See *Rubbed*.

*Medal.*—A large piece stamped in honor of individuals and remarkable events.

*Medalet.*—A small piece. See *Medal*.

*Medalist.*—A person skilled in medals.

*Medallion.*—Antique medal.

*Mint Mark.*—Private mark to indicate where a coin was minted.

*Mint Lustre.*—Original brightness of a piece, produced by well polished dies; sometimes termed "mint surface."

*Milled Edge.*—Having reference to the inner rim of a coin; sometimes, though erroneously, used to express a reeded edge, frequently found on the outer edge of United States gold and silver coins of recent dates.

*Mis-strike.*—See *Overstrike*.

*Mule.*—The obverse or reverse of one coin or medal used in connection with the obverse or reverse of another, to strike an odd or unique piece.

*Model.*—See *Trial Piece*.

*Moulded.*—See *Cast*.

*Natural Bronze.*—A color on a copper coin or medal, difficult to imitate, and produced by natural causes alone.

*Nicked.*—Showing slight indentations or notches.

(*To be continued.*)

## AN HISTORICAL SKETCH OF CONTINENTAL PAPER MONEY.

BY SAMUEL BRECK, ESQ.

(*Continued.*)

The people, "worried and fretted" by tender laws, limitations of prices, and other compulsory means used by the States to force the circulation and bolster up the value of paper, occasionally appeared heartless and out of patience. That feeling prevailed especially at the time when Congress, in 1780, recommended a monthly tax of fifteen millions, payable in specie or in paper at forty for one, and was the cause of its failure. The intention of this act was to destroy the bills as they came in, and to issue other bills at par, bearing an

interest of six per cent., to an amount not exceeding a twentieth part of the nominal sum thus brought in to be destroyed.

But the community had become momentarily paralyzed, and turned a deaf ear to all new projects. They stood, as an eye witness says, "amid impending destruction, when all occupations of town and country were nearly at a stop." Government not having power to compel the payment of taxes, could only entreat or menace. In vain, however, did they proclaim, threaten, vilify and decree that, "whoever should refuse to receive in payment Continental Bills should be treated as an enemy of his country, and be precluded from all trade and intercourse with the inhabitants;" in other words, be outlawed. In vain did they accompany these threats with penal, tender and limitation laws, associated, too, with military force; all proved ineffectual. This brow beating and coercion seemed, says Pletiah Webster, who wrote in 1781, "like water sprinkled on a blacksmith's forge, which, indeed, deadens the flame for a moment, but increases the heat and force of the internal fire." One instance of arbitrary power flowed from these laws which would disgrace the annals of an absolute government, and it was exercised, too, by Pennsylvania. The General Assembly, on the 25th of March, 1780, issued one hundred thousand pounds of paper bills, founded on the faith of the State, on some city lots in Philadelphia, and on the province island at the mouth of the river Schuylkill, which, at that time belonged to the State—(hence the emission was called island money.) This issue was followed up by an act, dated December 23 of the same year, making the bills a legal tender. The penalty of not taking them in payment of goods, lands, etc., was, for the first offence, forfeiture of double the sum offered, and for the second offence, a confiscation of half the offender's lands, goods and chattels, and imprisonment of his person during the war. This debt was subsequently paid in full.

(*To be continued.*)

#### THE PRECIOUS STONES, THEIR HISTORY AND VALUE.

*Including the Diamond, Sapphire, Ruby, Topaz, Emerald, Amethyst, Carnelian, Garnet, Onyx; Sardonyx, Heliotrope, Chrysolite, Hyacinth, Cat's Eye, Opal, Pearl and Turquoise.*

BY H. R.

(*Continued.*)

When the stone in its natural state resembles more in shape a single cone than two conjoined at the base, or, to use a plainer simile, is more like the half of an egg than a whole one, it is apparent how great a portion of its bulk must be removed in order to give it the Brilliant shape. In such case, then it is ground for the Rose pattern. This is a simple pyramid, whose base is a perfect dodecagon, and whose surface is cut into twenty-four equilateral triangles, which are also nearly equal in area. They are thus arranged: six of them have each an angle in the centre at the top; upon the bases of these, or the sides opposite the angles at the centre, abut six other triangles, whose



vertices reach the base of the stone. The six triangular spaces, between the latter six triangles, are ground each into two equal triangles. Thus the Rose is covered with twenty-four nearly equal, equilateral triangular *facets*, and the base is a single plane with twelve equal sides. The upper portion of the surface, consisting of the six triangles around the centre, is called the *crown*; the remainder, consisting of eighteen triangles, is called the *teeth*.

A Diamond of *unusual superficial* extent in proportion to its *depth* is polished upon its flat surfaces, and the edge is ground to any regular shape best adapted to the natural conformity of the stone, whether it be made round, oval, square or any other regular form. This style of cutting is called the *Table*, and is the last we have to describe.

Of three Diamonds of equal weight and purity cut respectively in the Brilliant, the Rose and the Table form, the first exceeds in value the rest, and the Rose rates higher than the Table.

The cutting and polishing of the Diamond involves a loss of nearly one half of its weight; and, according to a rule we will give presently, a cut Diamond weighing any certain number of carats is worth about three times as much as an uncut one of the same weight and to the value of the former must be added the cost of cutting, which will make its actual worth about quadruple the latter.

Diamonds are estimated in value according to their weight, purity of water, regularity, fullness of form and freedom from specks, veins and flaws. Specks generally consist of grains of red or black sand embedded in the stone. By flaws are meant indentations in the surface—and *water* signifies *color*—the first water meaning white. These imperfections are sought for at night by dealers and cutters in the Indies. European lapidaries prefer making their close examination in the daylight

(To be continued.)

## GREEK AND ROMAN COINS.

A series of an emperor's coins is his life digested into annals." *Addison*.

COMPILED BY E. M., JR.

### GREEK CIVIC COINS.

*Coins of Ægina—Various Denominations of Greek Silver Coins—Copper Coins, with their Divisions—Gold Coins of Sicily of an Early Date—Small Gold Coins of Cyrene—Gold Coins of various Cities in Greece—List of Coins of Cities using Greek Characters.*

(Continued.)

#### MARONEA.

The fore part of a horse to the right; in the field, a monogram.

Reverse.—MA, a cluster of grapes in an indented square.—AR.

#### CARDIA.

Head of Ceres, with a wheaten crown.

Reverse.—KAPΔIA, a lion to the left and an ear of barley.—Æ.

There are coins of Cardia with the fore part of a lion on obverse.

Reverse.—An indented square.

BYZANTIUM.

Head of Diana to the right, ; behind the head, a crescent, before it a bow.

Reverse.—BYZANTI  $\square$  N, a crescent and star.\*—Æ.

MESEMBRIA.

Helmeted male head.

Reverse.—A crescent, with the letters ME.—Æ.

THASSUS INSULA.

Head of Bacchus crowned with ivy.

Reverse.—OA, a branch of the vine with a bunch of grapes.—Æ.

MACEDONIA.

Female head crowned with a garland of ivy and vine leaves.

Reverse.—The prow of a vessel, with the letter M.

Some have the Macedonian shield, and some a helmet.—AR.

ACANTHUS.

The fore part of a bull to the left.

Reverse.—An indented square.—AR.

AEGAL.

An ass sucking a chimera.

Reverse.—An indented square.—AR.

AMPHIPOLIS.

A trophy.

Reverse.—AMPHIO  $\square$  IT  $\square$  N, Diana seated on a bull, to the right.—Æ.

CHALCIS.

Laureated head of Apollo to the left.

Reverse.—XA  $\square$  KIDE  $\square$  N, a lyre.—AR.

NEAPOLIS.

Head of a female to the right.

Reverse.—NEOH, the minotaur.—AR.

THESSALONICA.

Head of Jupiter to the right.

Reverse.—Prow of a vessel, OEEE.—Æ.

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\*When Philip of Macedon approached by night, with his troops, to scale the walls of Byzantium, the moon shone out and discovered his design to the besieged, who vigorously repulsed him. The crescent was afterwards adopted as the favorite badge of the city. When the Turks took Byzantium they found the crescent in every public place, and, believing it to possess some magical power, they adopted it themselves.

(To be continued.)

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OUT! GONE!

The last or April number of the *New York American Journal of Numismatics* has been issued and is full of interest, exhibiting a decided improvement upon former issues. The articles are, with one exception, short and of sufficient variety to interest the reader. As this publication has ceased to exist, we may be pardoned for finding fault with its editor, Professor Anthon, who, for some reason un-



known to us, has treated this journal, editorially, with silent neglect. From first to last, though receiving our publication regularly, and recognising our claims sufficiently to exchange, he has, professionally, ignored the existence of this journal. It is true, there have appeared a number of communications in reference to our publication during the past three years, but they were not of our selection, and were more sarcastic than complimentary. During the existence of this journal, we have treated our New York contemporary with courtesy and respect, frequently recommending it to our patrons, and though occasionally suggesting an improvement in the variety and character of its contents, yet always entertaining the highest respect for its editors and appreciating their numismatic ability and standing as professional gentlemen. Under these circumstances, more is the wonder that our journal was never reviewed nor criticised by its managers. The number now before us contains the editor's valedictory strangely associated with a cut of a rare type of colonial pieces. We regret the brevity of the farewell remarks of Professor Anthon. Knowing that he wields a caustic quill, well guided by a knowledge of the ups and downs of the coin trade, we anticipated an explanation of the causes which led to a suspension of his journal. The April number contains a full index to the four volumes, and also a roll of the members of the American Numismatic and Antiquarian Society. In the latter, we recognise many subscribers to our own publication. In conclusion, and in justice to the New York journal, we would state that arrangements have been made with the Boston Numismatic Society to continue the publication, and the first number from Boston will appear in July. We shall await its appearance with much pleasure not unmixed with anxiety to scan the columns of the forthcoming periodical. We propose to make up a club for our Boston friends, and request our patrons to send their names, accompanied with two dollars, for one year's subscription to the *Boston Numismatic Journal*. We have already received names sufficient to warrant us in starting a club. We bespeak the support of the numismatic fraternity, in advance, for the *Boston quarterly*, knowing full well that there is an ample supply of brains at the Hub, and that is not all: we have a deep seated conviction or prejudice that everything undertaken of a literary or scientific nature will be well and thoroughly performed in the tri-mountain city.

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#### APOLOGETICAL.

We regret to be compelled to announce that, in striking our new metallic store cards, the dies were broken and we succeeded only in striking one hundred copper, one hundred brass, one hundred white metal, twenty nickel and twelve silver pieces. The specimens or trial cards were very fine, but the dies failed from the start, and, when striking the nickel pieces, were completely ruined. We have now sets in copper, brass and white metal at twenty-five cents per set.

## NEW YORK COIN SALE, JUNE 17.

This sale was well attended, notwithstanding a sale of coins by Mr. Cogan, on the same day. The gold patterns, international pieces and Jefferson head cent were withdrawn by the owner of the collection, as the bids were not sufficient to cover half their market value. The balance of the collection was successfully disposed of and the pattern pieces were bid off at higher prices than were obtained at the last sale of those pieces, showing a decided appreciation in value. Continental and colonial paper money realized good prices. We noticed a fair representation from distant cities—Massachusetts, Connecticut, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland and Virginia were represented at the sale. It was unfortunate that Mr. Cogan should get out a catalogue a few days prior to our New York sale, and fix upon the same day. However, both sales were well attended and successful, although a little better result financially might have gladdened the hearts of owners if the sales had been a few days separated. The coin market will not *bear bulling*, and those who think two sales upon one day preferable to one sale upon two days, had better sell their own property instead of managing that of others. We will always be careful to avoid trespassing in the way of sales, upon a fixed date, when notice is received in time to avoid it, and we trust hereafter to be treated with a proper courtesy in the arrangement and disposal at auction of coin or other collections.

## SALE OF ANCIENT COINS.

Bangs, Merwin & Co., No. 694 Broadway, New York, sold a collection of about four hundred Greek and Roman coins, on Friday evening, June 17. We received the catalogues only three days prior to date of sale, and beg our patrons at a distance to consider this an ample apology for not mailing the catalogues, as is customary upon occasions of this kind. We send a large number of catalogues to dealers and others from two to three weeks prior to date of sale, and when coin sales occur in other cities, we have frequent cause of complaint in the small quantity of catalogues sent us and the short time allowed for their circulation. We trust, hereafter, that parties disposing of collections will have catalogues out at least one month before an intended sale. A hint to the wise is better than a kick to the foolish.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

HAMBURG, GERMANY, May 10, 1870.

MASON & Co., PHILADELPHIA.

With your Monthly Collectors' Magazine, I am very much pleased and it gives me much pleasure to be ahead of the German collectors in American coins. By your paper, I know directly if the United States issues some new pieces; it is also the only paper known by me which brings so many news for a collector in American coins. I ordered your paper by my stationer and news dealer; it cost me



four Prussian thalers. I do not know how to get some catalogues, so that I have time to send you my orders; generally, the sale is over before the letter can reach you. I hope with next German post to get the catalogue and magazine for May.

Yours, etc.,

G. F. U.

P. S.—If you have some wishes for coins or stamps inform me through your paper.

G. F. U.

[Will our Hamburg correspondent kindly oblige us by forwarding by post anything rare or curious in the American line, such as coins, medals, relics, old books, letters, etc. We should like a box of crystals or handsome agates; also, a lot of Continental used stamps. Will send good exchange or cash. Send us any German, French or Italian periodicals, and names of dealers. Ed.]

#### REPLIES TO CORRESPONDENTS.

M. N. S., CHICAGO.—We sent a catalogue to each buying subscriber. We cannot send to each name on our list, as there are seldom more than five hundred catalogues printed for our coin sales. Mr. Cogan gets one hundred, auctioneers get seventy-five, seventy-five more are distributed among small dealers, and we have but two hundred and fifty left for our own distribution. Follow this hint and buy something at a public sale, or send a bid, however small, and you will have a catalogue every time, sure.

R. S., BOSTON.—Thanks for the history of the freckled adventurer. May work it up in the stamp sketches at some future period.

G. L. W., HAMBURG.—Have attended to your request. Do you receive the magazine regularly?

C. T. R., GLASGOW.—Have written to you by last steamer. Send a good assortment and you will have a good patron.

R. P. N., NORWICH, ENGLAND.—Subscription received via Charles Scribner & Co., New York, and magazines forwarded. Do you require the back numbers of the present volume? Can you furnish any American coins, books, etc.?

L. S.—Can send you the copper, brass and white metal cards for 25 cents per set. Dies broken, and can be seen at our office.

C. R. S.—The firm of Warner & Brother, 1021 Chestnut Street, is broken up, and all stock in trade, tools, etc. of that firm was sold at public auction, June 22.

A. M. Y.—Maris' first and second edition of 1794 cents mailed on receipt of 25 cents each.

G. H. P.—We have small round white paper boxes for \$1 50 per hundred; 2 inch round white boxes, for medals or dollars, \$2 per hundred; morocco cases, velvet lined, cut for two medals—size  $4\frac{1}{2}$  by  $2\frac{3}{4}$ —25 cents each by mail.

W. A.—Our new stamp packet list will be published in July, with a new series of stamps. Enclose 25 cents, and name special stamps for any packet you require. Priced stamp catalogue, 15 cents.

## Philatelic Department.

E. MASON, JR., EDITOR.

### NEW ISSUES.

UNITED STATES.—We have received information that it is the intention of the Post Office Department to issue another stamp, and that of a value that has not heretofore been employed in this country. There have been two designs prepared, one bearing the profile of Baron Steuben, and the other of Lafayette; the framework will conform in design to the present issue. The colors have not been decided upon.—*New York Journal of Philately.*

SOUTH AFRICAN REPUBLIC.—As the adhesive stamps for this country were not ready for issue at the commencement of the present year, the Postmaster General decided upon emitting a few more provisional envelopes for the benefit of local traders and the public. The die used for the previous ones having been destroyed, a few were impressed with a small hand-stamp, bearing round the circle POTCHEFSTROOM ZUID AFRIKA., and in the centre, Z. A. R., with the value written in by hand, 6*d.* pence. These were placed upon exactly the same style of envelopes as the first issue, and were printed in black. They are, of course, now obsolete. Similar envelopes were provided for PRETORIA and RUSTENBURG, inscribed respectively, with the names of those towns.

SAN SALVADOR.—A doubtful rumor is in circulation to the effect that a one centavo stamp, color *blue*, is shortly to be issued, the type to be similar to that of the current series; it is, however, little likely, even if such an emission has been decided on, that choice has been made of a color which would inevitably clash with that of the half real.

HANOVER.—M. Moens has discovered that the 1 gruten gr. of 1850, which has hitherto been supposed to be on unwatermarked paper, in reality possesses a watermark, consisting of a simple square of the form and about the size of the stamp itself. He adds, "It is not such a watermark as is generally found, but still is one none the less for that; manufacturers' marks alone ought to be excepted from the category of watermarks."

FRANCE.—The laureated 1 centime has at last made its appearance. The design is identical with that of the 2 and 4 c., the color is exactly that of its predecessor. The new comer has a very neat appearance, and, in reviewer's phrase, we can predict for it a very large circulation. As yet it is only in partial use, the stock of the old type being used up before the new is employed. Our own specimen, the only one we have as yet seen, we took off a circular from Dunkerque.

BELGIUM.—It appears that this country is about to follow the Austrian lead in emitting correspondence cards. The project has been approved by the chambers and the cards are to be issued within



six months after the promulgation of the law. M. Moens has faith in their *ultimate* appearance.

PARAGUAY.—It is reported that the provisional government has issued a series of postage stamps, which have been in use since the 1st of March. We await confirmation of this rumor.—*Stamp Collectors' Magazine*.

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STICK vs. LICK.

One of our city subscribers, in an irritable mood, complains that the new series of United States stamps will not stick to the letters, and another, in a humorous vein, says "they stick too much," he invested in a sheet of two cent stamps, and separated them so that he could carry them in his pocket, when he found, after a game of base ball in which he indulged, that the stamps were stuck together in sixes and dozens; while his handkerchief, shirt collar, wristbands, etc., were ornamented profusely with brown views of the head of Jackson. Our advice is for the complainants to meet in the vestibule of the post office and take part of the stick from one stamp and stick it on another; when dry, give each stamp a slight lick to make it stick. If this plan fails, secure a bigger stick, from the nearest wood pile, and give the postmaster a lick; the latter, in turn, can stick the blame on the National Bank Note Company and give that firm a lick with another stick. If the matter "sticks" after repeated "lickings," stick a pin through the stamp and envelope and let it slide, thus dispensing with stick licking all together. The above is the only consolation we have to offer stick lickers, unless we send them over the river Styx, were stamps and stick-lickings are unknown.

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NEW LOCAL STAMP.

The Adams Express Company will soon issue several adhesive stamps designed for use on money orders and to prepay packages sent by that company. We have examined two proofs, made by the American Phototype Company, as specimens for the express company, the stamp, however, will be engraved and printed by the National Bank Note Company from the Phototype Company's specimens. The stamp is of about the same size and appearance as the new three cent issue of United States. It contains a bust of Mr. Adams, the founder of the express company, in an oval frame, with the value in the upper corners. The specimens we have examined are printed in green and blue; there will, however, be a variety of colors and values.

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PRICED CATALOGUE OF NEW YORK POSTAGE STAMP SALE.

MAY 28, 1870.

4 scarce Revenue Stamps, two uncanceled, worth \$1 50, gold. 80 cents.

- 1 10 reals, 1851; Spain, cancelled. 60 cents.
- 1 set Hamburg Envelopes, M. O. included. 80 cents.
- 1 set, 1851 issue, U. S. Stamps, uncanceled. \$1 12.
- 1 set, 1865, U. S. Envelope Stamps, 11 kinds, uncanceled. \$1 70.
- 8 obsolete Stamps, including Montevideo, Luzon, etc. \$1 25.
- 1 set, first issue, Bavaria, uncanceled. 80 cents.
- 1 Bolivar, 10 centavos, cancelled. 55 cents.
- 1 set of 3 (View of Sydney) Stamps, uncanceled. \$1 75.
- 1 Buenos Ayres, 2 pesos, 1858. 75 cents.
- 1 set of two, wood block, Cape of Good Hope. \$2.
- 1 complete set, Chili, clean and cancelled. 75 cents.
- 1 2 cent, green, Confederate States. \$1 10.
- 1 10 cent, red, Confederate States. \$1 30.
- 10 1 cent, orange, Confederate States. \$3 12.
- 100 5 cent, blue, Confederate States. \$1 10.
- 100 10 cent, blue, Confederate States. \$1 65.
- 100 20 cent, green, Confederate States. \$2 62.
- 1 Knoxville, 5 cent, red, uncanceled; this is one of the provision Confederates and is very scarce. \$2 25.
- 1 set of 3, 1870, Dutch Indies, uncanceled. \$1 12.
- 25 official, Egypt. \$2 62.
- 1 set French Republic, uncanceled. \$3 12.
- 1 set, French Republic, presidency, uncanceled. \$2 12.
- 1 10 cent, lithograph, French unpaid Letter Stamp.
- 1 India proof Mulready Envelope; this is one of the scarcest proofs known, one having been sold in London for 10 guineas. \$3 25.
- 1 complete set, Lubeck, 18 stamps, uncanceled. \$1 37.
- 1 10 cent, carmine, 1854, Luzon, uncanceled. \$2.
- 1 10 cent, carmine, 1854, Luzon, uncanceled. \$3 62.
- 1 2 real, green. 1854, Luzon, uncanceled. \$5.
- 1 1 real, 1863, violet, Luzon, uncanceled. \$2 12.
- 1 2 real, 1863, blue, Luzon, uncanceled. \$2 25.
- 1 1 penny, 1858, Mauritius, red. 25 cents.
- A collection of 389 uncanceled Postage Stamps, nicely mounted in a handsomely bound album. Amongst other scarce stamps will be found complete sets of Sicily, Romagna, Modena, etc. \$9 50.
- 1 set, 1856, Mexico, cancelled. \$3.
- 1 set, 1852, Modena, uncanceled. \$1 12.
- 1 set, 1859, Modena, uncanceled. \$1 10.
- 1 set, 1861, Naples, uncanceled. 90 cents.
- 5 sets, Photographs, New Caledonia. \$1 12.
- 1 set, Romagna, 1859, uncanceled. \$1 12.
- 1  $\frac{1}{2}$  real, 1865, St. Domingo. \$1.
- 24 2 real, Salvador. \$1 12.
- 25 2 can., black, Shanghai, uncanceled. \$1 37.
- 1 set, Sicily, uncanceled. \$1 12.
- 1 set of 8, Spanish Official Stamps. 62 cents.

(To be continued.)





## COINS FOR SALE.

1791 Washington Cent, good, \$	5 00	Vermont Cent, good,	\$ 1 00
1793 Wreath " "	3 00	1794 Silver Dollar, good,	50 00
1793 Link " "	4 00	1796 Silver Dime, very good,	6 00
1793 Liberty Cap " "	10 00	1794 Silver Half Dollar, v. good,	2 50
1799 & 1804 " poor.	2 00	1795 " " "	1 25
1799 & 1804 " good.	5 00	1796 " Quarter " "	2 00
1809 " " "	1 00	1856 Pattern Nickel Cent, proof,	1 05
Rosa Americana Penny, "	3 50	1858 Nickel set of 12,	12 00
" Half Penny, good,	3 00	1858 " Indian Head,	1 00
Pine Tree Shilling, good,	5 00	1787 & 1788 Mass. Half Cents,	1 50
" Sixpence, "	4 00	1787 & 1788 " v. fine	2 00
" Threepence, good,	5 00	N. J., Con., Va. Wood, fair, each,	25
" Twopence, very good,	6 00	1859 Nickel, 1858 reverse.	1 00
Liberty and Security, 1795. "	3 50	1859 " 1860 " "	1 00
" large, "	2 00	1850 to 1857 Cents, v. fine, each,	50
Louisiana Cent, R. F., "	1 00	1840 to 1849 " " "	1 00
" 1722, "	2 00	1830 to 1839 " " "	1 50
" 1721, "	3 00	1820 to 1829 " " "	2 00
Virginia Cent, 1773, "	1 00	1794 to 1814 " " "	3 00
" very fine,	3 50	1817, 1818 & 1819, uncir.,	1 00
N. Y. (Nova Eborac), good.	1 50	Medals, Autographs, &c. &c.	

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

## FLAGS OF ALL NATIONS.

A large sheet containing the flags of all nations, beautifully printed in all their respective colors, with the names of each country attached, mailed free on receipt of 25 cents.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

## IRISH FLAGS.

A large sheet of the flags of Ireland, their origin and history, printed in colors, mailed for 25 cents, free.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

## UNITED STATES POSTAGE STAMPS. 1869 AND 1870.

A full set of these stamps selected with care to perfectness of shape and colors. mailed for \$2 25—face value about \$2.

MASON & CO., No. 139 North Ninth Street, Philada.

## PRICE LIST OF COINS.

Our list of coins for sale now ready. Enclose stamp for return postage.

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## ALBUMS.

Stamp Albums, from . . . . .	\$1 00 to \$6 00
Monogram Albums, from . . . . .	50 to \$3 00

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